

THE LIFE HISTORY OF *APPIAS ADA CARIA* WATERHOUSE AND LYELL (LEPIDOPTERA: PIERIDAE: PIERINAE)

By G. A. Wood

P.O. Box 122, Atherton, N. Qld 4883

Abstract

The previously unrecorded life history of *Appias ada caria* Waterhouse and Lyell is described and a food plant listed.

Introduction

The rare albatross, *Appias ada caria* Waterhouse and Lyell, is common at times in the Iron Range area of North Queensland. Here I observed specimens to fly rapidly along watercourses and regularly examine the foliage of a trifoliolate plant. Examination of this plant, *Crateva religiosa* G. Forster, Capparaceae, revealed ova and larvae.

Life history

Ovum. Spindle shaped, vertically ribbed, height 1 mm about twice width, white, later turning orange.

First instar. Head white, smooth, shiny. Body green, finely haired, anal plate brown, smooth, shiny. Length 1.8 mm.

Third instar. Head pale yellow-green, shiny. Body blue-green becoming yellow toward the yellow anal plate and bearing continuous white line above the prolegs, smooth, shiny. Head and body with blue conical tubercles. Length 10 mm.

Fifth instar (Fig. 1). Head pale yellow, shiny, rough. Body blue-green with mid-dorsal yellow line and white line above prolegs. Head and body with conical tubercles and bristles. Length 35 mm.

Pupa (Fig. 2). Yellow, smooth, shiny, with black dorsal and subdorsal spots, a thin anterior spine with tip black and curved upwards, a strong dorsal thoracic ridge, abdomen with segments 2 to 4 produced laterally into flat black spines, those on 3 and 4 with white centres, cremaster translucent white. Length 27 mm.

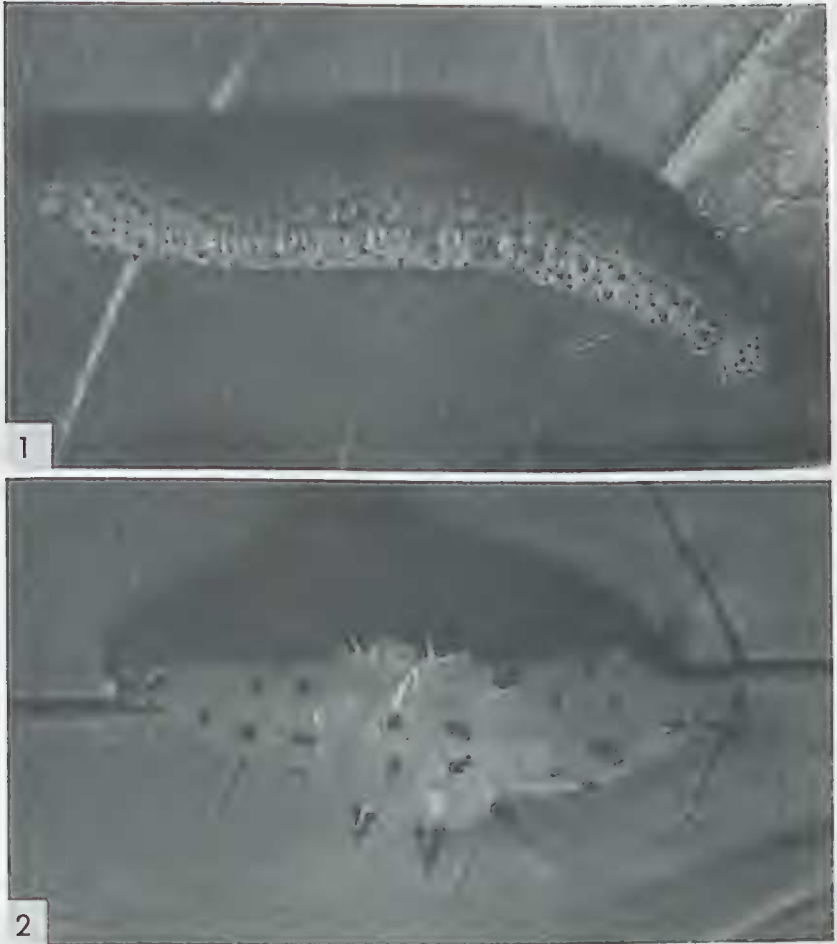
Foodplant. *Crateva religiosa* (Forst.) Capparidaceae.

Notes

Eggs are laid singly on the new growth of the foodplant. Larvae rest on silken pads constructed on the midrib of a leaf. Only new growth is consumed by the larvae, which perish if restricted to mature leaves. Pupae are suspended beneath the leaves and branches of the foodplant. Adults may be common after rain has produced a flush of new growth on the foodplants.

The life cycle takes approximately three weeks in the summer months; egg four days, larva ten days, pupa six days.

A. ada caria ranges from the Dulcie River to McIlwraith Range, and further south between Cape Tribulation and Daintree (Common and Water-



Figs 1,2. *Appias adacaria* Waterhouse and Lyell: (1) fifth instar larva; (2) pupa, dorsal view.

house 1981). It is interesting to note that the larval food plant has a similar distribution in Australia except that it is not recorded from the Cape Tribulation/Daintree area.

Acknowledgement

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References

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